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# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## WMU meeting celebrates joy of missions

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

The joy of missions is alive and well in Mississippi. During the 123rd annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of Mississippi, conferees were inspired and enthralled by stories of the work of Southern Baptist missionaries around the world, as well as being given the opportunity for some personal instruction in small group settings.

The 2002 Annual Missions Celebration was held at First Church, Natchez,

"It just depends on what you look for and what you want to see."

Breakout conferences were offered for the balance of the afternoon. Conferences covered topics such as prayerwalking, disaster relief, growing a missions-minded church, Acteens, and preparing for a mission trip.

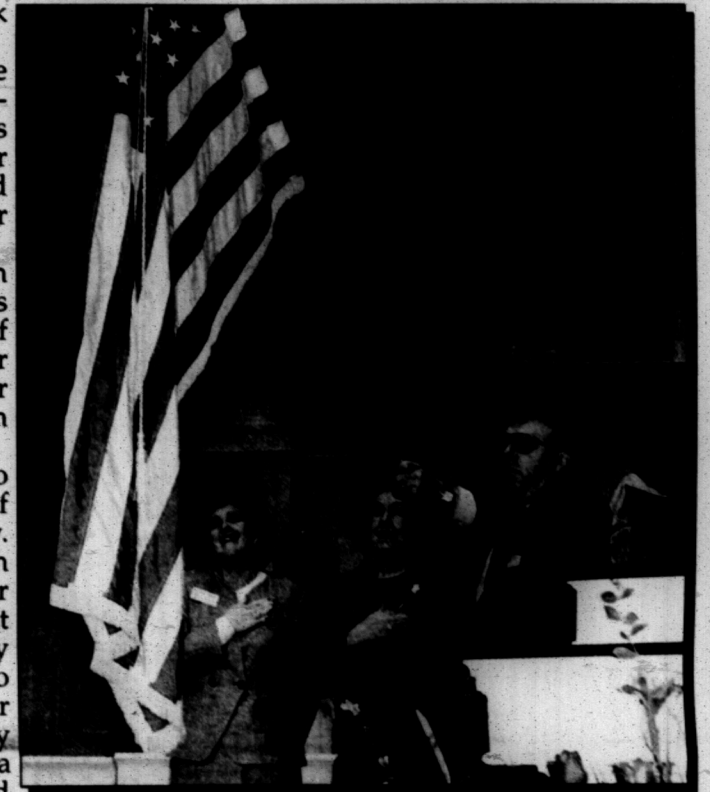
The February 1 evening session included as keynote speakers Glenda and Gerald Hart, parents of a daughter serving in last frontier missions, and Michael Coles, pastor of Seventh Baptist Church in Baltimore, Md.

The Harts were careful not to reveal too much about the work of their daughter and son-in-law. They did state that their children had to evacuate their country after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, but that they were all doing fine. They had to relocate temporarily to Thailand, where their daughter had prayers answered — they were within walking distance to a school for their grandchildren, and had the opportunity to make some new Christian friends. Their family was able to move back in country on Dec. 27.

Seventh Church, Baltimore, is the home church of Annie Armstrong.

Coles went as pastor six years ago, saying that he "was called to reconcile the body of Christ in a mixed neighborhood."

Using the familiar "dry bones" passage from Ezekiel 37, Coles asked rhetorically, "Can these bones live? This is the same question facing Seventh Baptist Church, the same vision as we look to the conflicted and the uncomfortable. Can these poor and oppressed live?"



**GOD BLESS AMERICA** — The attendees at the 2002 Annual Missions Celebration joined in singing a rousing chorus of "God Bless America" during the presentation of the United States Flag at the Feb. 1 evening session. (Photo by Tony Martin)

Coles continued, "God's message and our obedience is the key to reaching the lost. I have but one responsibility - to walk through the valley and prophesy. But God didn't call me to do it alone."

After the February 2 morning breakout sessions, the final plenary session included testimonies from three Acteen state panelists: Amy and Jennifer Martin, sisters from First Church, Stonewall, and Kimberly Cole from First Church, Brandon.

Cathy Curtis, missionary from West Africa, shared of how she had been able to reach women in her community using pictures instead of written materials. According to Curtis, one woman said to her, "I can't believe you care about us so much to be here."

Following the annual report and election of officers, the final message was shared by Karen Gray, missionary to Brazil. Gray, a missionary for over 19 years, used as her text Mark 14.

Speaking of the woman who broke the alabaster jar and washed Jesus' feet with the perfume, she said, "The woman did what she could with what she had, and so should we."

The 2003 Annual Missions Celebration will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Mississippi WMU. The conference will be Feb. 7-8, 2003, in Jackson.



**THE BEST OF ACTEENS** — Three of the state's Acteens panelists share a moment with conferees at the 2002 Annual Missions Celebration at First Church, Natchez, February 1-2. The panelists are (from left) Amy Martin, First Church, Stonewall; Kimberly Cole, First Church, Brandon; and Jennifer Martin, First Church, Stonewall. Robin Keels, (right) is a consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. (Photo by Tony Martin)

February 1-2. Participants from all over the state gathered under the theme of "Discover the Joy of Missions."

The conference included a blend of plenary sessions Friday afternoon, evening, and Saturday morning. Included in the conference were three breakout sessions which catered to the specific interests and desires of conferees.

Betty Davis, state WMU president from McComb and wife of Charles Davis, missions director for Pike Association, presided over the conference. Kay Cassibry, state WMU executive director, her staff, and other volunteers were also instrumental in the program.

Edna Ellison, retired from the national WMU, offered the Bible reflections segment of each group session. Ellison, an author, used the book of Philippians as the core of her Bible studies.

The February 1 afternoon session included Tom and Bonnie Hearon, missionaries in Brazil for 13 years. Bonnie Hearon stated, "When you work on the mission field, what you think about most are the individual people and the lives you touch."

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, closed the February 1 afternoon session with a message drawn from Acts 8. "Despite what you hear, joy is breaking out in Mississippi and around the world," Futral said.



**ACROSS THE GLOBE** — A highlight of the 2002 Annual Missions Celebration at First Church, Natchez, was the presentation of national flags borne by missionaries, missionary parents, and others involved in missions. (Photo by Tony Martin)

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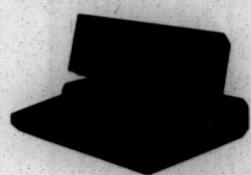
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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# When a human is not really a human

One well-known group refers to it as a "stealth campaign." Another familiar group believes it smacks of an "underhanded... hidden agenda." A third equally famous group describes it as "inflammatory, unnecessary, and simply un-American."

What could possibly cause so many recognizable groups to use such strong language? If you guessed war protesters, you'd be wrong. If you thought it was sneaky politicians once again raiding the public treasury, you'd be wrong again. If you supposed it was a con game on the elderly, you'd be wrong yet again.

Give up? The answer is (drum roll please): Defining a baby as, yes, a *baby*!

All the hard bitten words recounted in the first paragraph were spoken over U.S. President George W. Bush's decision last week to classify an unborn human being as, well, a human being for the purpose of providing said unborn human beings with proper health care under the government's Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Now you might think of such a declaration in terms of simple common sense, but you'd be wrong. You live in Flyover Country. You're not a member of the establishment elite that considers babies to be nothing more than a waste product of conception. You're a member of the Great Unwashed Mass, too ignorant to play a part in our country's great, God-less post-modern enlightenment.

You might be called anti-choice or even a Christian by these elitists, who say a baby is not a baby. Here's their reasoning:

◆ "Bush Administration Proposal to Make 'Unborn Children' eligible for CHIP is Part of Stealth Campaign to Undermine Abortion Rights," reads the headline on a press release from the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL).

The President's plan "reveals that the true intent behind the Administration's proposal is not to expand health care coverage to a vulnerable population, but to undermine a woman's right to choose. In sum, this is an anti-choice ploy disguised as a health care proposal," the news release argues.

◆ The National Organization for Women (NOW) sees the move as an "underhanded" means of establishing the fetus as a person with legal rights. "I just have to believe their hidden agenda is to extend personhood to a fetus," said Laurie Rubiner of the National Partnership for Women and Families, in a NOW press release.

◆ "The move is inflammatory, unnecessary, and simply un-American. It was a bad idea last year when they floated it and it's still a bad idea, no matter how they dress it up. Their goal isn't expanding access to health care. It's about redefining the rights of women to make their own childbearing decisions," declares Gloria Feldt, President of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Pro-abortion supporters are masters at subverting the true meaning of words as they seek to evade the real issue. We already know from former pro-abortion activists who have deserted the movement that they'll tell any lie, twist any statistic, and steamroll any opponent who stands in the way of legalized abortion any time, any where, for any reason.

Tell us — please! — if a "fetus" is not a developing human being that will soon be



capable of living on its own, what is it? When a whale is pregnant, it is pregnant with a baby whale. When a cat is pregnant, it is pregnant with kittens.

Yet when a human is pregnant, it's not really human, according to pro-abortion supporters. Does that make any sense? Of course not, but the elitists think we should uncritically accept their argument as truth.

We try to bend to our will the laws of God and nature, but those laws don't bend so easily. A whale is a whale. A kitten is a kitten, and a human is a human.

All the intellectual dishonesty in the world won't change that fact.

### PART 3 OF 3

We Christians are to be neither modern nor postmodern in our thinking patterns or lifestyle. Our goal is not buy into the oldest or latest philosophy or worldview, but to become biblical in our worldview and actions.

However, like Paul in Athens (Acts 17), we live in a culture that has the potential to pull us away from God's desired purpose.

So, how should the Christian church respond to the challenges posed by postmodernism? Let me admit that there are no easy answers, no easy solutions. It seems to me that there are at least five possible responses:

- Ignore it
- Continue to build/shore-up our "fortresses."
- Fight against the cultural changes.
- Embrace the cultural changes.
- Be missional in our approach.

To ignore the emerging post-modern culture seems to deny the reality of its existence and therefore forfeit our impact on the people who reside in the culture. To shore up a fortress does not take seriously the command to go into the world to evangelize and disciple the

## GUEST OPINION:



### Neither modern nor postmodern

By Will McRaney, Asst. Prof. of Evang.  
New Orleans Seminary

nations. At times resistance is needed, but as a primary strategy, it is seems to sidetrack us from the focus on Christ and the gospel. To embrace all aspects of the postmodern culture seems to ignore the dangers.

There appears to be three major dangers when reflecting on how to respond to postmodernism: the first two are syncretism and sectarianism. Syncretism is absorbing all the values of the culture. It is dangerous for the Church to simply adopt the new culture that is developing. Sectarianism is rejecting everything in society. It is dangerous to retreat and disengage from the very people we are called to reach. John exhorted us to "be in the world" and yet "not of this world". Both parts of this passage apply.

The third danger is holding our forms too tightly and forgetting the real function of the church. Forms should always

follow functions. Forms can become comfortable and therefore ineffective substitutes for the real thing. The danger occurs when we begin to be more passionate about styles or forms or rituals than we are about being the church to the people who need Christ.

Brian McLaren said in his book, *The Church on the Other Side*, "If you have a new world, you need a new church. You have a new world." The question is, are we ready to embrace the biblical mandate to make more and better disciples, regardless of the forms it takes. Christ gave his life for people and the church. Should we not be willing to sacrifice the cultural preferences and comforts of the people who know already know Christ to reach those who do not know him?

Churches that impact post-modern people will focus their attention around the person and

uniqueness of Christ. The three primary delivery systems will be (1) narratives, parables, and testimonies, (2) creative worship appealing to all the senses, and (3) authentic community in the forms of meaningful, safe, small group experiences for discovery and development of relationships with each other and God and conducting acts of community service.

I would strongly suggest that we seize the opportunities to intentionally reach out to people that might not normally fit into a church culture which has been influenced primarily by modernism. May we passionately communicate the gospel effectively.

Many people today believe there are many paths to God. They are searching for spiritual truth. In a postmodern environment, Christianity has a seat at the table, but we have not been given a spot at the head of the table. It is up to the church to determine what it does with this offer from the spiritually searching. What a challenge! What an opportunity! What a God we serve!

McRaney will lead the Pastor and Staff Workshop February 11 at First Church, Richland. Questions for the workshop may be submitted to McRaney via e-mail at [questions@MEGnet.org](mailto:questions@MEGnet.org).



# Islamic law leading to Christian repression

LAGOS, Nigeria (BP) — Life is about to get tougher for non-Muslims, especially Christians, in the northwestern Nigerian state of Zamfara, as new measures are rolled out to enforce Islamic (shari'a) law, first adopted two years ago, CNSNews.com reported Jan. 30.

The wearing of turbans and veils by male and female students in post-primary institutions will now be compulsory, the state's education commissioner, Umar Ango Bakura, told reporters in the state capital, Gusau.

He stressed that there would be no exceptions. More than 34,000 turbans had already been purchased for distribution, while veils (hijabs) would soon be delivered.

Meanwhile, 14 church buildings have been slated for demolition by the state government.

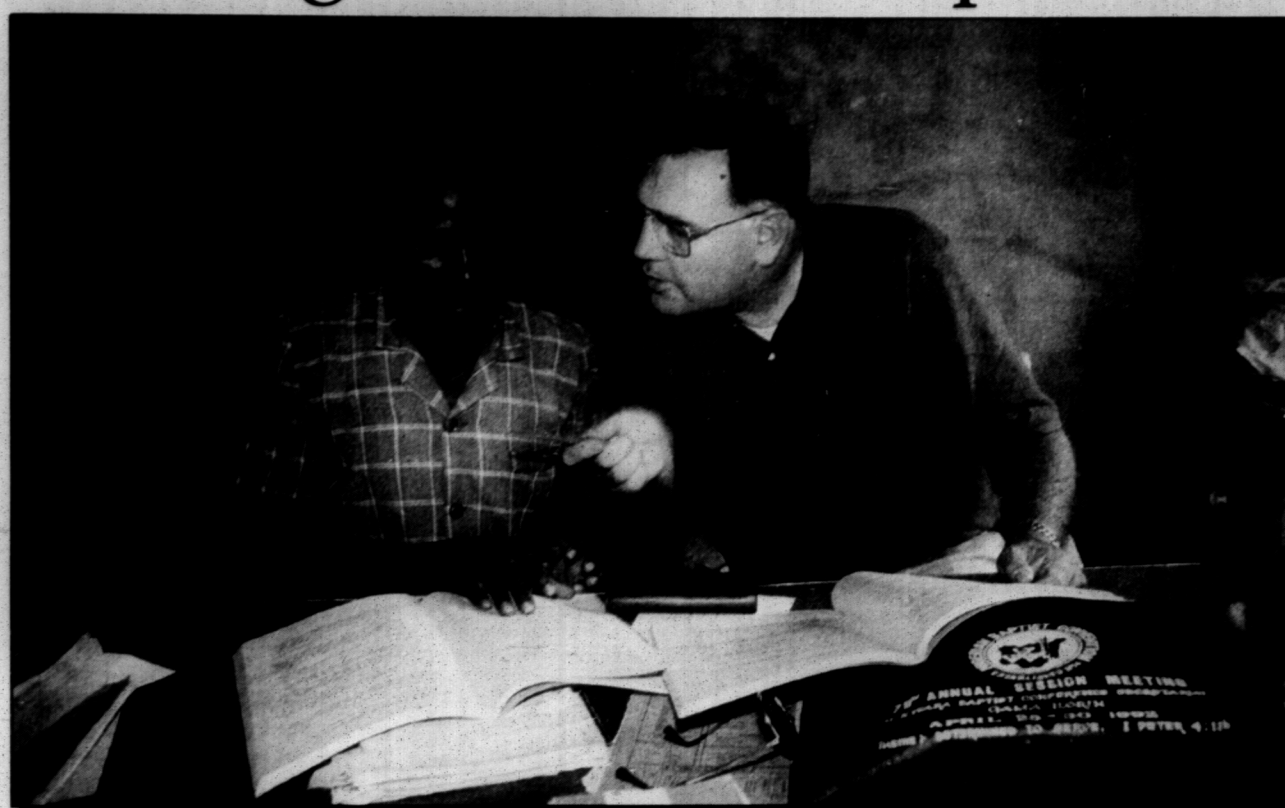
Lands and housing commissioner Hassan Nasihu told state radio there were too many churches in Zamfara and there was a need to drastically reduce the number, as well as prevent the opening of new ones.

Two Christian community leaders, Linus Awuhe and David Ishaya, have opposed the moves.

Awuhe, chairman of the Zamfara chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), urged the federal government to call the state government to order, to avert a possible breakdown of law and order.

While the Christian community fully supports decency in dressing, he said, it would not be fooled into following a pre-arranged agenda of Islamization.

Awuhe argued that Muslims throughout Nigeria are at liberty



**THEOLOGICAL TRAINING** — International Mission Board missionary Ron Copple (right) leads the pastor of Inwva Boshikiri Tee Church in Nigeria through leadership and Bible training. More than 48,340 overseas pastors participated in theological training in 1999. (BP photo by Ken Touchton)

to build mosques wherever they live without harassment, but the reverse was the case for Christians in Zamfara.

Ishaya, who heads a body called the Christian Complaints Committee (CCC), said life in Zamfara is traumatic for Christians.

He said the drive to close down the churches was not restricted to the state capital. Government agents had sealed off an Anglican and an evangelical church elsewhere in the state.

Ishaya said Christian leaders had been making representations to Zamfara Gov. Ahmed Sani, urging him to allow

Christians to live as free citizens and practice their faith as provided in Nigeria's constitution.

It looks unlikely that the state governor will reverse the decisions. During the opening ceremony of a Quranic recitation competition, Sani declared he was ready to sacrifice his life and property to sustain the shari'a legal system in Zamfara.

Last February, he personally led a raid on a Roman Catholic Church, ordering that it be converted into a mosque and an Islamic school.

Zamfara was the first of Nigeria's 36 states to introduce shari'a law, in January 2000. One-third of the country's states have followed suit. Christians in these states claim the move aims to wipe out Christianity.

In these 12 northern states, Christian programs are not allowed on state radio and Christian religious studies are banned. Application for permission to build churches has become difficult.

In one state, Kaduna, more than 2,000 people were killed in Christian-Muslim riots linked

to plans to introduce Islamic law there.

Three Christians from Zamfara have gone to court to challenge the legality of the Islamic code.

## Korean: help Christians

WASHINGTON (BP) — A refugee from North Korea called on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) at a Jan. 24 hearing to help Christians in the communist state to achieve one desire. Her voice breaking with emotion, Soon-Ok Lee said of the followers of Christ in North Korea, "Their hope and wish is to proclaim God openly while on earth. I hope you as a commission will help them with their goal. Lots of Christians in North Korea keep their faith in their heart." Lee's testimony was the most riveting during a morning hearing on the condition of religious freedom in North Korea and how it can be promoted in the totalitarian country that is largely closed to the outside world. Last year, the U.S. State Department named North Korea to its annual list of the world's most flagrant violators of religious liberty for the first time. In its report, the State Department said, "Genuine religious freedom does not exist," an assessment affirmed by witnesses at the USCIRF hearing. Christians are called "political criminals" in North Korea and are persecuted solely for their faith, Lee said through an interpreter. Hundreds of the 6,000 inmates in the prison camp in which she was held were there because they were Christians, she said. Believers in Christ would be separated from nonbelievers in prison to prevent their influence on others, she testified. Guards would tell the Christians they could save their lives and be freed if they would refuse to worship God and instead worship Kim Il Sung, the deceased founder of the Marxist regime, she said. "I could not understand their faith at the time, because I did not know God," Lee told the panel. "I didn't know God when I lived in North Korea because I was brainwashed to worship [Il Sung]," she said. "I was trained to have bad feelings" about Christianity. In North Korea, "children are taught Christianity is like opium" and Christians are "puppets of invaders," Lee testified.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

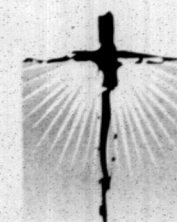
Southeastern Seminary president Lewis A. Drummond announces his retirement following a four-hour, closed meeting of the seminary trustees executive committee on the seminary's Wake Forest, N.C., campus.

### 20 years ago

Bill Hogue, recently resigned as the head of the evangelism section of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, said he believes Southern Baptists are on target with Bold Mission Thrust evangelism goals.

### 50 years ago

The 1952 Evangelism Conference climaxes at Jackson's First Church with the audience of 1,000 on their knees following a dedication service when scores of pastors and laymen walked the aisles rededicating their lives to Christ.



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FRONT PAGE

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# McDonald family remembered, laid to rest

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Sammy J. McDonald III, 41, pastor of Victory Church, Florence, and his family died of smoke inhalation in a pre-dawn blaze January 29 at their residence in the Clear Branch community, according to the results of official autopsies.

Killed along with McDonald in the fast-moving fire were his wife Patricia, 37, and sons Lowery, 14, Allen, 12, and Reese, 7.

The rambling, two-story farmhouse in which they were living, built by Sammy McDonald's grandfather in 1914, also was destroyed.

Firefighters from two rural volunteer fire departments reported the house was fully engulfed in flames when they arrived.

They estimated the fire began between 1:30-1:45 a.m., as the family slept.

Investigators believe the three children were in upstairs bedrooms, while their parents were in a downstairs bedroom.

Investigators also believe there was no smoke detector in the house.

There were no initial indications of foul play, but autopsies were ordered and authorities opened a routine investigation at the scene as soon as the debris cooled.

The McDonald family was eulogized February 2 during a funeral service at Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, where Sammy McDonald previously served on the church staff.

An overflow crowd of more than 300 people attended and watched as the five silver caskets were loaded into separate hearses for the trip to the cemetery at Clear Branch Church, Florence.

A special memorial service was held at Victory Church on January 30. The church's small sanctuary overflowed and windows were raised to allow the large number of people standing outside to hear the service.

Clark Stewart, pastor of Harmony Church and a friend of Sammy McDonald since their days as students at Mississippi College in Clinton, spoke at both the memorial service and the funeral.

At the memorial service at Victory Church, Stewart reminded the grief-stricken church members that God will comfort them and support their ministry.

"Members of Victory Baptist Church, your best days are ahead. Rise and get about the father's business. There is still work to be done," he said.

Stewart pointed out that he believes Sammy McDonald and his family would want it that way.



The McDonald family, circa 1997

They knew that "God doesn't want a church that revolves around a family. God wants a church that revolves around Jesus," he said.

Sammy McDonald previously pastored Lighthouse Church, located a short distance from Victory Church. Both churches are on Cleary Road on the western outskirts of Florence.

The McDonalds and about 20 members of Lighthouse Church left in September 2001 to begin Victory Church, which presently has about 50 members.

In addition to Lighthouse and Victory churches, McDonald also pastored Old Pearl River Valley, Philadelphia; Carmel, Monticello; Gum Grove, Brookhaven; First Braxton, and Southside, Vicksburg.

A native of Hazlehurst, McDonald was a graduate of Florence High School ('78), Mississippi College (BA '82), New Orleans Seminary (MRE '84), and Evangel Christian University (ThD '93).



IN MEMORIAM — John McInnis, a deacon at Victory Church, Florence, pays tribute to fallen Victory pastor Sammy J. McDonald III and his family during a January 30 memorial service at the church. McDonald, his wife, and their three sons died January 29 during a pre-dawn fire at their residence. On the table in front of McInnis are a portrait of the McDonalds and five candles — one for each member of the family lost in the fire. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Commentary: Be thankful for all God's children

By Roy Dabbs, pastor  
Oak Grove Church, Meridian

Anyone who has grown up in the South knows that racism exists. I don't know my age when I realized it. Maybe it was when I heard someone say, "Those people are okay as long as they stay in their place," or "I don't mind if they come to our church as long as they come to worship."

Immediately, I thought, "What place?" I also thought, "Why else would someone come to church?"

In the early 80s I spoke at many different places asking for financial support to fund a Boys' Home that my wife and I operated. Many people would ask, "Are y'all integrated out there?" I would always answer, "No, we only keep boys."

Certainly, I knew what they meant but I never let on like I did.

Thank God things have changed. I for one am grateful for all people, all colors, and all races.

I am thankful that in 1986, a teenaged Asian boy drove me to the hospital while I was having a heart attack and stayed with me until my wife and family arrived.

I am thankful that a young black man stopped to help me not long ago to break the lugs from a rim where some 120-pound mechanic had tightened them with his air wrench.

I am sad that racism still exists. Billy

Graham said, "Racial and ethnic hostility is the foremost problem facing our world today. From the systematic horror of ethnic

cleansings in Bosnia to the random violence ravaging our inner cities, our world seems caught in a tidal wave of racial and ethnic tension."

What is racism? Racism is blind prejudice, judging a person by the color of their skin rather than by the character of their heart.

Racial problems still cause pain in our society today, and all of us have been influenced by racial actions and attitudes.

The Apostle Paul put it simply, in Gal. 3:26-28: "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Praise the Lord and thank you, Paul!

The young Asian man who drove me to the hospital and the black man who broke my lug nuts are both sons of God through Christ Jesus, if they believe and trust in Christ.

Are they welcome at Oak Grove Church in Meridian? Yes, they are. Will Jesus Christ welcome them in Heaven? I know he will.

Remember, racism is a sin problem, not a skin problem.

Dabbs is a trustee of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention funded by the Cooperative Program.



## Media Library Workshop set for Feb. 23

Copiah and Lincoln Associations will hold a workshop for church media librarians on Feb. 23 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Best Inns and Suites in Brookhaven, according to Lincoln Association media librarian Agatha Sandidge.

Peggy Tacon, media library director at Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala., will teach on Using Dewey and Using Sears and also give some conference time for Promotion Ideas. Attendees are encouraged to bring the books entitled, A Classification System for Church Libraries, Using The Dewey Decimal classification System, and Using Sears Subject Headings.

Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$5 per person at the door.

Reservations should be made with Lincoln Association, Attention: Agatha Sandidge, P.O. Box 363, Brookhaven MS 39602 or Copiah Association, Attention: Linda Dewitt, P.O. Box 230, Hazlehurst MS 39083.



# Royce selected to lead Mississippi College

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Trustees of Mississippi College in Clinton have chosen Lee G. Royce, president of Anderson College in Anderson, S.C., to become the nineteenth president in the 175-year history of the four-year school affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The selection of Royce was announced at a January 30 news conference by Harry Vickery of Jackson, chairman of the school's trustee board. Royce was not present at the news conference.

Royce succeeds Howell W. Todd, who served as president for seven years before retiring and returning to his native Tennessee.

Todd, credited with leading a successful \$100 million fundraising campaign and breaking ground on a number of crucial new building projects, was dogged in his final years as president by budget problems and misallocation of funds among some of the school's accounts.

Vickery said at the press conference that the college is now on sound financial footing and is enjoying an increase in student enrollment. "We feel like we're in a new day," he said.

Vickery did not disclose the new president's salary and declined to describe the selection process. He said Royce would be on campus around July 1 after fulfilling certain portions of his current contract with Anderson College, which is affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

"We are pleased and excited to make this announcement of this outstanding man and his family as we welcome them to Mississippi College," Vickery said.

Vickery described Royce as a "good Baptist" who impressed trustees with his communication skills, academic background, and past success in fundraising.

Prior to his presidency of Anderson College, Royce was vice-president for university relations at Belmont University in Nashville, which is affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

He also taught business administration at Ouachita Baptist University in

Arkadelphia, Ark, which is affiliated with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

He holds a doctorate in higher education administration from Vanderbilt University's George Peabody College, as well as a master's degree in business administration from the Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management and a bachelor of arts degree from Vanderbilt.

While studying at Vanderbilt, Royce served as president of the Baptist Student Union and as assistant campus minister.

He has been married for nearly 27 years to Rhoda Russell Royce, a native South Carolinian and former editor of Open Windows magazine

and a number of other publications at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

Rhoda Royce is currently serving as an adjunct instructor of English at Anderson College.

The Royces have one son: Mark, a high school senior and honors student.



Royce

## THE DREADED "C" WORD

A friend of mine had made a doctor's appointment because of an unusual abnormality he had discovered on his body. It certainly needed to be checked out, but he was anxious about going to the doctor for fear of what he might discover.

Days before he went, he said, "I just hope that the doctor does not tell me it is the dreaded 'C' word!"

He was not alone in that thought, for no one wants to hear the "C" word for themselves or their loved ones.

I suppose, in part, that's the reason doctors tend to refer to gross and abnormal cell development with longer, more specific medical terms like melanoma — so even they will not have to say CANCER. It changes the course of lives and families, and it brings fear to many a heart.

Within the church there is a dreaded "C" word that many are frightened by and many others are frustrated with. In some circles just the mention of the word sends out waves of uneasiness.

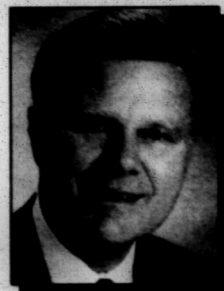
This "C" word has created family problems, brought rifts within churches, and bewildered multitudes of others.

In the church the "C" word is CHORUS. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and sounds.

There are praise choruses, Scripture choruses, prayer choruses, new choruses and old choruses, some weak and some bold choruses.

I must confess, at this point, that I am not at all sure what the problem with choruses is all about. We've always had choruses that we have sung in our churches.

Having grown up on the Broadman Hymnbook, we even had them there.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

In fact, decades ago, many of our churches would not think of having a true morning worship service without singing what amounts to a modern day chorus equivalent that we call the Doxology.

For many churches, two things create a problem with the "C" word:

- It just seems as though there is a flood of new choruses, and
- They are not found in the hymnbook.

Since they are not found in a hymnbook, they must either appear flashed on a screen before the congregation or on a printed worship guide, and that is not the way we typically go about singing in a Baptist church!

So the conclusion is, there must be something wrong with it. Give us a book, call out the number, and if the printer thought a chorus song was worthy to go in a hymnbook, we can handle it.

While choruses may not come out of our traditional hymnbooks, many of them come directly out of Scripture — even direct quotes from King James-translated Scripture.

Other choruses simply take some glorious aspect of our great God and elaborate on that theme.

For a few folks, the emphasis on singing choruses in worship is frightening because they fear it may get us away from the

great majestic five-verse hymns of the faith.

That is a danger and a concern that I also share, but to be honest, where I grew up we missed out on many of the hymns anyway. We never sang third stanzas!

We actually only sang about 10 or 12 songs in the book, and the other 500, either the pianist couldn't play or the song leader didn't like.

Some of them might have been left out because they were too highfaluting!

Whatever you feel about the "C" word in church life, before we either embrace it as though it is the "end-all, cure-all," of church existence, or whether you feel it is the music of the antichrist, several points ought to be considered:

- Choruses are not all bad. The reality is that some of them are just words from God's Word put to a tune. If we consider that to be bad, something is bad wrong with us.

Often we confuse the fact that personal preference and our own comfort zone of musical appreciation enters into our thought process, but often choruses capture a beautiful expression about God and locks it into our hearts.

Far from being bad, that is a good thing.

- We ought to remember that every song we sing was written by someone at some time, and at that point the song

was new and different to everyone. That is true of Amazing Grace, Silent Night, and What a Mighty God We Serve.

- We ought to keep in mind that there is a reason why the masses in churches and spiritual gatherings are singing so many choruses. They enjoy them! They benefit from them! They find spiritual blessing in them!

When someone goes away from a worship service humming and softly singing, "Worthy, He is Worthy," it may not be on the same plane or have the majestic tones of "A Mighty Fortress is our God," but it may be just what they need to strengthen and sustain them as they face life's tough issues and Jesus is absolutely, undebatedly worthy!

Some time back I was visiting with some folks in a hospital room following the surgery of a family member, and a song came to mind for one of them.

He said, "Let's just sing this together," and we did. We sang, "God is so good, God is so good," and it led into a second part of that praise song, "He answers prayer, He answers prayer."

I was blessed, we were all encouraged, and the chorus song perfectly fit the moment.

For many of us, we will never stop singing some of those great hymns that literally have been heart-warming, life-lifting, and Christ-honoring.

They continue to bless our lives — songs like, Victory in Jesus, How Great Thou Art, and Amazing Grace. It would not hurt if we also found room to store some of the special, moving, refreshing, and God-honoring choruses that are available to us today.

If we all joined in, the church "C" word might change from "Chorus" to "Celebrate!"



## YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**GAs of Longview Church, Starkville**, received their first charms and certificates for their study of the Mission Trek on Senegal. Pictured (from left, first row) are Paige Buford, Stephanie Bush, Rachel Huber, Tiffany Coggins, Ashley Edmonds, and Treasure Mitchell; (second row) Sandra Pate and Melinda Whitehurst, leaders.

**Fernwood Church, Gulfport**, will hold its annual Valentine's fellowship entitled The Greatest Love on Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. Sarah Brice is the coordinator. Refreshments will also be served. For more information, call (228) 896-4556.

**East Louisville Church, Louisville**, will observe a

Super Special Spectacular Senior Sunday on Feb. 10 at 11 a.m. The speaker will be Frank Stewart. Keith Dendy is pastor. For additional information, call the church at (662) 773-3683.

**Center Terrace Church, Canton**, will present the music ministry of Daniel and Teresa Johnson in concert at 6 p.m. on Feb. 10. For additional information, call the church at (601) 859-4186.

**Building dedication services** will be held at Oak View Church, Terry, Feb. 17 at 10:30 a.m. A covered dish luncheon will follow the morning worship service. Scott Worley is pastor.

**Evergreen Church, Wayne Association**, will hold its annual Wild Game Supper on Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. Brandon Fortenberry and Wesley Waycaster, both of Hattiesburg, will be the guest speakers and will bring the

devotion along with different hunting calls and safety tips. For more information, contact Pete Cochran, Baptist Men's director at (601) 735-9762 or call the church at (601) 687-5050. Chris Layton is pastor.

**The Men's Ministry** at Broadmoor Church, Madison, has announced the 2002 Wild Beast Feast to be held on Feb. 8 from 6-9 p.m. Featured speaker will be Steve Farrar of Dallas, Texas, and author of the books, Point Man and Standing Tall. Musical entertainment will be provided by Billy Borden of Tucumcari, New Mexico. Tickets are \$10 for men, \$5 for young men age 13-18, and free for kids 12 and under. For more informa-



**The Bryans**

tion, call the church office at (601) 898-2345.

**R. C. Bryan and his wife Donna** were honored by Hebron Church, Pheba, upon his resignation as pastor of Hebron Church to enter full time evangelism.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Hal Ethridge**, a member of Hickory Church, Hickory, was recently ordained as pastor of Goodwater Church, Lauderdale Association. Ethridge (right) is pictured receiving his certificate of ordination from Rodney Anderson, pastor of Hickory Church.

**Sylvarena Church, Smith Association**, ordained Larry Hammons as deacon on Dec. 9. Pictured (from left) are Hueston Adkins and Hardy Denham, former pastors; Alton Ishee, chairman of deacons; Hammons; and Robin Risher, pastor.

**First Church, Ridgeland**, recently ordained Jim Ross and Tom White as deacons. Grant Arinder, pastor, gave the charge to the church. Pictured (from left) are Alfred Rawls, chairman of deacons; Ross; White; and Arinder.



**Adkins, Denham, Ishee, Hammons, and Risher**



**Rawls, Ross, White, and Arinder**

### CLASSIFIED ADS

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**KENSINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume with salary history to Kensington Baptist Church, 4945 Winchester Rd., Memphis, TN 38118; ATTN: Dale Stone.

**HOPPER GLASS STUDIO** - custom church windows, reworking and repair - Columbus/Jackson (877) 477-1899.

**PEARL RIVER GLASS STUDIO, INC.**, (800) 771-3639; www.prgs.com. New stained glass church windows, repair and restoration, baptistry murals.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY** Free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROSSETT, ARK.**, is seeking a full-time children's minister. Resumes may be sent to 701 Main Street, Crossett, AR 71635.

**CUSTOM STAINED GLASS** windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. (800) 605-2970.

**LOWERY DIGITAL ORGAN AND BENCH.** Excellent condition. Paid \$17,000 but will take best offer. Call (601) 856-7697 or email shasta1940@hotmail.com.

**1994 FORD E-350.** Fifteen passenger van in excellent shape. 156,000 mostly highway miles. \$7,500. Call Bobby at (601) 270-0437.

**WWW.GULFSHORESCONDO.COM.** For rent by owner. (205) 554-1524 or (251) 968-3222.

**THE MARSHALL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** in Alabama is accepting resumes for a director of missions. Send resumes to: Search Committee, Marshall Baptist Association, 3555 AL Hwy 69 W., Guntersville, AL 35976. Deadline is March 1, 2002.

**USED PEWS FOR SALE!** 58 pews, various lengths; matching pulpit and communion table. Call (601) 483-5497 or after 5 p.m. call (601) 482-7479.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 7, 2002

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



## Sunday School Growth Spiral Conference

Parkway Baptist Church, Clinton

February 26, 2002 • 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Conference Leader  
**David Apple**

David is Sunday School FAITH/ministry specialist in Sunday School and Open Groups of LifeWay Church Resources, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

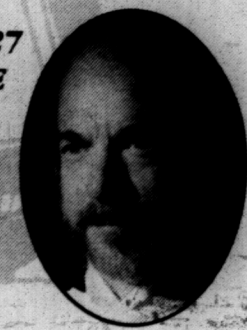
*Any church preregistering prior to February 18 will receive a 10-year history of the church and a Growth Spiral diskette.*

Sponsored by  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Sunday School Department  
For more info, call 1-800-748-1651 or (601) 968-3800

## 2002 Mississippi Baptist State Handbell Festivals



APRIL 19-20  
**GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY**  
Clinician  
**Arnold Sberman**  
Director of Music and the Arts  
Pollard UMC, Tyler, Texas



APRIL 26-27  
**MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE**  
Clinician  
**Douglas Benton**  
Bellmaster, Northern Arizona University  
Flagstaff, Ariz.

Sponsored by the  
Church Music Department  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Jerry Talley, Handbell Contract Consultant  
L. Graham Smith, Director, Church Music Department

For more information, contact the Church Music  
Department, at 1-800-748-1651 or (601)292-3267

## MAC 2002

### • Program Guests

Melinda and Russell Kyzar - Russia  
Pam Smith - National Acteens Consultant, WMU  
Gwen Williams - Missions Storyteller and  
Worship Leader, New Orleans

State Acteens Panel

### • Missions Celebration

### • Missionary Conferences

### • Acteens/Missions Conferences

• **Ministry Projects** - Bring one or more: bath soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, (all trial sizes), toothbrush, bath cloth, Bible, or New Testament.

### REGISTRATION FORM - MAC 2002

Registration Deadline: February 15

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada, March 1-3, 2002

Church \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$22 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total enclosed)

Motel Reservations should be made directly with the motel.

Person making reservations \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Please attach listing of names of Acteens and adult sponsors, addresses, school and T-shirt sizes.)

Mail registration form and check (made out to MBCB) to:  
WMU Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

For more info contact Robin Keels: 1-800-748-1651 or (601)292-3322

## Kneading the Need

March 1-3  
2002

Friday 6 p.m. -  
Sun 12:15 p.m.

Emmanuel  
Baptist Church  
Grenada

Cost \$22

**MAC 2002**

Mississippi Acteens Convention



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- ◆ Order books

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- ◆ Sunday School hour
- ◆ Morning worship
- ◆ Discipleship hour
- ◆ Evening worship

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- ◆ Deep appreciation from your members

If interested, please call Jerry Mixon, Stewardship Director, MBCB toll-free at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 292-3347.

## Electronic Keyboard Workshop



March 15, 2002  
8:15 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Baptist Building, Jackson  
515 Mississippi Street

Michael Sharp, Clinician

### WORSHIP

- Using digital keyboards in worship to enhance rather than replace other keyboard instruments
- Personal worship – a renewal commitment
- Spiritual disciplines – preparation for ministry
- Discovering ways to involve more people in the keyboard ministry of your church

### EQUIPMENT

- a.k.a. Synthesizer and other related terminology
- Features of the electronic keyboard and how to utilize them (includes MIDI, soundbanks, etc.)
- Performance techniques – producing a realistic instrumental sound (includes layering)

### OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED

- Developing a keyboard ensemble in your church
- Locating digital keyboard arrangements appropriate for worship services
- For further study, books, video, and websites about electronic keyboards

For more information, contact the Church Music Department, at 1-800-748-1651 or (601)292-3267



## OLDER CHILDREN'S Bible Drill Camp

July 1-3, 2002

(Boys and girls who have completed grades 3-6)

July 1-3 (cycle 1)

Central Hills Baptist Retreat  
Kosciusko, Miss.

Cost: \$85



### Purpose:

For church groups (with sponsors), whether or not their church has Bible Drill, to participate in personal Bible study, Scripture memorization, Bible skills, worship, time with missionaries, spiritual growth, swimming, horseback riding, archery and canoeing.

**Schedule:** Monday, 1:30 p.m. - Registration  
Wednesday, noon - Goodbye

Special policy requires churches to send adult counselors (21 years or older) with groups of young people under 18 years of age. If the group includes both boys and girls, a counselor of the same sex is required for each seven girls (or portion thereof) and for each seven boys (or portion thereof). Counselors will be responsible for the conduct of the children they bring and will participate with them throughout camp.

For more information: Call Don Hicks in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept. at 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651, or e-mail at dhicks@mbcb.org.



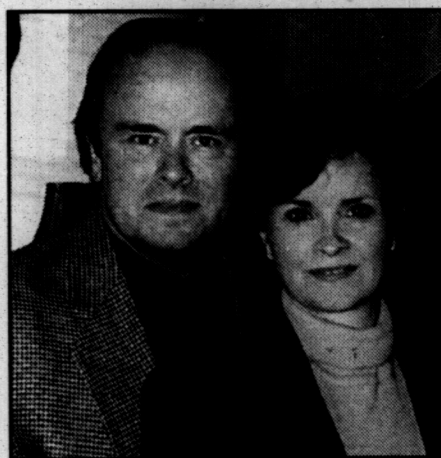
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McLaurin Heights  
Baptist Church  
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Pearl, Mississippi

## CELEBRATING CREATIVE MINISTRIES WITH YOUTH

MARCH 1-2, 2002



### FEATURING GUEST ARTISTS: DENNIS AND NAN ALLEN NASHVILLE

Dennis and Nan are uniquely gifted creators of inspired music and drama, which is used widely in youth ministry. They are actively involved in the youth music/drama ministry of their home church in Nashville.

We are excited that they will be with us to encourage our youth as they seek to use their talents creatively for our Lord.

### MUSIC TO BE PURCHASED IN PREPARATION FOR THE FESTIVAL

- 1) Dennis and Nan's latest collection of songs, arranged by Dennis, and drama written by Nan: **Your Love is Amazing**, MB-868, Lillenas
- 2) Anthem: **The Light of the World**, #A7053, Glory Sound  
(There are a limited number of copies of this anthem available for loan from the Church Music Department. They may be reserved on a "first come first serve" basis.)

**REGISTRATION** for the *State Youth Music Festival* must be made by **FEBRUARY 16, 2002**. The registration fee is \$1 per person. This is nonrefundable. A check for total registration fees should be sent with the registration form to the State Youth Music Festival, Church Music Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, in order to complete registration.

For more information, contact the Church Music Department, at 1-800-748-1651 or (601)292-3267

# DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE SHOWCASE

6:30-9:15 P.M.

*Tuesday, March 19*  
*First Baptist Church, Clinton*  
**1-601-924-6705**

*Thursday, March 21*  
*Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven*  
**1-601-833-2597**

The Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, along with LifeWay Christian Resources, is presenting an overview of discipleship materials. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to learn more about valuable resources from our knowledgeable leaders.

For more information, please contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department: 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.



## Christian Performing Arts Festival

April 5-6, 2002

Country Woods Baptist Church, Byram  
Cost \$25 (includes T-shirt, snacks, lunch  
on Saturday and incredible seminars)

For more information, please contact the  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department  
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

**Special Guest:**  
**Wesley Brainard**



## Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

*"The work of prayer is prerequisite to all other work in the kingdom of God. for the simple reason that it is by prayer that we couple the powers of heaven to our helplessness."*

*PRAYER by O. Hallsby*

For: (1) Race Reconciliation (CAC); (2) Pray for God's guidance for missionaries to the Guarayos of Bolivia as they prepare chronological Bible storying that will address the Guarayo world view. Pray the specific stories will help the Guarayos know and experience God in a life changing manner.

Pastor E. and his wife minister in Kibera Slum, Nairobi, Kenya, where 500,000 live. There are tenant/landlord riots due to high rents, leaving at least 28 dead. Pray that the numerous small churches inside the slum area will be Christ's peacemakers and for the ministry of Pastor E. and his wife.

For: (1) 21st Century Pastor Staff Leadership Conference, FBC, Richland, (CAPM); (2) 11th - 17th Focus on WMU (WMU Emphasis); (3) Congress will be the home of many tough political battles in the days to come. Pray for your elected representatives by name.

The "Jesus" film is widely used throughout South Asia, and an increasing number of homes have access to computers and satellite dishes, creating a channel for programs to bring the gospel by internet and airwaves. Pray that all possible means of conveying the Good News will be explored.

For: (1) BS JumpStart, Flowood, (SS); (2) 21st Century Pastor Staff Leadership Conference, Grenada, (CAPM); (3) Pray for a team of volunteers from SC going to Taiwan later this month to work with missionaries in the Chian Tin district of Kaohsiung where over 200,000 Chinese live.

Many blessings were seen as locals were faithful to invite their friends to attend recent revival services held by Baptist representative Wayne Jenkins in Kirchheim, Germany. As many as 50 people made first time commitments, including whole families! Intercede for follow-up efforts.

Bangkok, Thailand, is a major gateway city in the "10/40 Window" of 11.5 million people. The Bangkok Metro Team is preparing for prayerwalkers coming next summer. Ask God to work in the hearts of those He would draw to Bangkok to spread the radiance of Christ, the Light of the World.

As internet usage in China soared to a new height of 26 million users this past year, many Christians and seekers were able to download Christian websites for the first time. Pray that many millions will read or hear of the love of Christ and will receive Him into their hearts through these websites.

Steve Goebel is an institutional chaplain for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. His wife is Karissa. Pray for God's wisdom and leadership as he works in and learns a brand new ministry. Pray for compassion and protection. Pray for his family to continue to grow in the Lord.

Political violence, high inflation, and high unemployment in Zimbabwe is resulting in lawlessness, the violent seizure of white farms and an increase in crime. Missionaries must be very cautious about working in certain areas. Pray for peace for everyone in Zimbabwe.

For: (1) Mississippi Singing Churchmen Retreat, Brookhaven Area, (CM); (2) Richard Ryan and his wife, Melinda, are beginning his Navy chaplaincy ministry at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Pray that he would be a voice of hope and strength to the ones he serves during this tense time for the military.

Thank God for the many mobile clinic patients in Paraguay who were able to receive glasses or surgery. Most of these had not seen clearly or read for years. They again have a life and can read their Bibles. Pray for those who have not yet found Christ as Savior.

In 2002, deaf Dominican Republic Christian leaders have opportunities for ministry to the deaf in other countries of the Caribbean. Ask God to inspire deaf persons there to start and be involved in deaf-led church-planting movements. Pray that the barriers to these new church plants be removed.

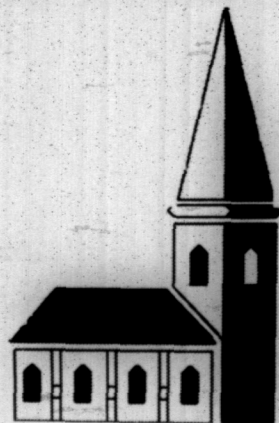
For: (1) Christian Education Clinic, Meridian, (D&FM); (2) The Global Outreach ministries staff at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City Feb. 8-24. Work is focused on Creative Arts, Hotel Ministry, Chaplaincy, Sports Clinics, Street Ministry, Prayerwalks, Pin Trading and many more.

### The conference is for:

- pastors
- staff members
- building committees
- long-range planning committees
- business administrators and
- maintenance/property personnel

For more information, contact:  
Keith Gordon or Kay McDonnell  
Church Building Services  
PO Box 530  
Jackson MS 39205-0530  
Phone: 1-800-748-1651 or  
601-292-3305 in Jackson  
Fax number: 601-714-7426  
E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

## Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop



March 19, 2002  
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Country Woods Baptist Church  
6737 Siwell Road  
Jackson, Mississippi

2002  
Young Ringers  
Festival  
Saturday, March 23  
Park Place Baptist Church  
Pearl



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**Sherrie Upshaw**

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Jerry Talley, Handbell Contract Consultant  
L. Graham Smith, Director, Church Music Department

# HOUSE TOPS



# BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

**Dan West**, retired associational missions director with the Mid-Delta Baptist Association in Kosciusko, was awarded a Service Award recently at homecoming ceremonies held at William Carey College (WCC). The award recognizes the recipient's dedication to community service. Currently serving as interim pastor of McCool Church, McCool, West retired as manager of the Central Hills Baptist Retreat in Kosciusko after 21 years in that position. A native of Petal, West is a graduate of WCC and New Orleans Seminary.



West

**The Office of Continuing Education** at Mississippi College is offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the GRE Admissions Test. The course which offers 16 instructional hours of review is scheduled to be held Feb. 23-March 5. The course schedule is as follows: Feb. 23, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Feb. 28, 6-10 p.m.; March 2, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; March 5, 6-10 p.m. Registration deadline is Feb. 18. The review cost is \$195. For more information, call Carole Moore at (601) 925-3265 or e-mail continuing-ed@mc.edu.

**Mississippi College Interim President** Lloyd Roberts has announced the appointment of Harold T. Bryson, a native of Tupelo, as chair of the Christian Studies and Philosophy Department, effective Jan. 14. Bryson currently serves as interim chair and professor in the Christian Studies Department. He is also the director of the Institute for Christian Leadership.

**Blue Mountain College** invites high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors to come and experience campus life firsthand during Spring Fling on Feb. 28. Visiting students will have the unique opportunity of meeting students and professors on campus while attending some classes, touring the campus, and attending the theatre production, *Steel Magnolias*. Call the admissions office at (800) 235-0136 for reservations.

**Mississippi College's water fitness program** has been ranked as the best college program in the country by the United States Water Fitness Association (USWFA) and was also ranked in the top five among all water fitness programs, whether based in a college, health and fitness club, or public facility. For further information, contact Pamela Smith, aquatic director/instructor, at (601) 925-3491.

**James Sclater and Angela Willoughby**, the performing duo of clarinet and piano that is known as *Lyricas*, are set to present a program of Romantic and Neo-Romantic music at Mississippi College (MC) in Aven Auditorium on Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. *Lyricas* appeals to people of all ages and musical backgrounds. The concert will feature works from Ravel, Brahms, Schumann, Charles Villiers Stanford, and Alec Templeton. Sclater, the clarinet part of the duo, has been a faculty member in the music department of MC since 1970. Angela Willoughby, also on the music faculty of MC, is the piano part of the duo. For additional information concerning *Lyricas*, call (601) 925-3445 or 925-3444.

**Dot Jackson**, business professor at Blue Mountain College, was recently notified that she had passed all five parts of the National Registered Parliamentary Examination and has been accredited as a registered parliamentarian.

**William Carey College (WCC) student** Tiffanie Nicole

Cooper of Slidell, La., was crowned Homecoming Queen at ceremonies held on the Hattiesburg campus recently. The 2001 WCC homecoming queen, Jenny Norwood, presented Cooper with the crown during halftime of the Crusader Men's basketball victory against Loyola University. Cooper is a senior music therapy major. The recipient of a talent based scholarship in flute, she received a Studio Award in the Winters School of Music. She is a member of First Church of Pearl River in Slidell, La. The court, elected by the student body, includes Keri Elizabeth Norwood, Hazelhurst; Pamela Nicole Thomas, Lucedale; Karen Veronica Carlisle, Pascagoula; Serita Clark, Stringer; Jessica Pinion, Florence; Sunny JoAnn Salters, Natchez; Bethany Janin Festervand, Wallace, La.; and Jenny Lee Ann Wigington, Prentiss. Pictured (from left) are Shanna Selby, Jennings, La.; Deresa Patrick, Iuka; Wigington; Carlisle; Thomas; Cooper; Norwood; Clark; Salters; Festervand; Elizabeth Jones, Biloxi; and Janice Pearson, Long Beach.

## Corrections

In the New Orleans Seminary graduates photo on page nine of the issue of January 24, Lloyd Sweatt's pastorate was incorrectly listed. Sweatt is pastor of Meadowood Church, Amory. Incorrect information was supplied by New Orleans Seminary. The Baptist Record regrets the error.

In the Mississippi Singing Churchmen photo on page 12 of the January 31 issue, Milford Valentine should have been listed as the director of the Churchmen. It was a reporter's error. The Baptist Record regrets the error.



WCC Homecoming Court

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Drug card!
- ☐ **Major Medical & Surgical Plan**  
Helps pay benefits for: Hospital Room,  
Intensive Care, Surgery.  
Drug card available.
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

### BIBLICALLY INCORRECT

Editor:

In response to the article in The Clarion-Ledger about the Jackson church calling a woman as pastor, we do not believe that it is biblically correct for a woman to be the pastor of a church. We do not oppose women serving in the church. The passage found in 1 Tim. 3 states the qualifications for a pastor. Verse 2 says that the bishop (pastor, overseer) must be "the husband of one wife." This clearly indicates the pastor is male.

We want you to know that we are not trying to imply that women have not played an important role in God's work throughout history and still do. However, we do want to be biblically correct in whatever we do in the Lord's work.

Pastors Conference  
Humphreys Association  
Belzoni

### GOD CALLS INDIVIDUALS

Editor:

Will no one go on record to counter the opinions that have been expressed regarding a woman becoming a preacher and pastor?

First, will the argument against be grounded in Scripture? Consider how we interpret. Did Jesus say no women should become a preacher or a pastor? No. Paul, the primary New Testament writer, wrote about

slavery. Did he actually condemn slavery? No. He told his readers that slaves should obey their masters. Is that an argument for slavery? No. Yet, in Paul's writings, we may learn that the practice was questionable, and unfortunately it took a Civil War in this country to rid our nation of this evil practice. Our Southland reeled from this devastating blow and paid a great price in blood shed. What price do we pay for the manner we interpret the Bible? Do we overlook the time period in which many of the teachings were addressed in Scripture? The plight of women was low in the ancient East, and the modern Taliban has demonstrated to the world how they treated women with contempt.

How far down the ladder of values must Baptists go in the effort to explain Scriptures? Is it far enough to bypass the significance of the liberation that Christ gave to women? It is a better day when we recognize that both men and women are able to prophesy (Acts 2:17).

God calls individuals. If he calls you to the ministry, are you going to refuse because you are a woman?

Joe H. Stovall  
Raymond

### BAPTISTS CAN SERVE

Editor:

U.S. District Judge Charles Pickering is a member of First Church, Laurel. I have

been his pastor and personal friend for ten years. I am deeply concerned about the attacks that Judge Pickering has come under while he awaits confirmation to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

I do not pretend to be an expert in politics or to understand all of the partisan wrangling, but after thirty years in the ministry I have come to recognize genuine Christian commitment when I see it. I believe Charles Pickering to be a man of deep moral fiber, a man of honesty and integrity, and a man bound by his Christian faith to do the right thing.

Some have felt that Judge Pickering's religious beliefs disqualify him from serving. On the contrary, I am convinced that it is his Christian beliefs that make him uniquely qualified to serve with great distinction in the position for which he is being considered.

The Clarion Ledger raised a very important question in its editorial of January 26. The question is, "Are Baptists Not Qualified to Serve?" I am glad that the author of this editorial concluded that not only are Baptists qualified to serve, but this particular Baptist is qualified to serve.

May we all join together as Mississippi Baptists in praying daily for Judge Pickering as the confirmation proceedings continue, and then redouble our prayers for him as he serves on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Randy Turner, pastor  
First Church, Laurel

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

**The Blue Mountain College (BMC) Financial Aid office** is holding a Financial Aid Fair on Feb. 23 to help students fill out their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on the web and inform them of available federal and state financial aid. This is a community service project that BMC wants to share with all students, no matter where you plan to attend college. Due to the limited number of computers, sessions available are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., or 3 p.m. Refreshments and pizza will be served. Senior high students, college transfer students, new college students, and parents are encouraged to attend. Have your social security number and all completed student and parent tax information for 2001. For additional information and/or to schedule reservations, contact the office at (662) 685-4771, ext. 141.

Leila Michelle Sherrell of Laurel will represent William Carey College at the 2002 Miss Mississippi Pageant after receiving the title of Miss Carey during Homecoming cere-

monies. Sherrell, an elementary education major, was also elected Miss Congeniality. She is the daughter of Ken and Elaine Bullock and Tommy Sherrell. Jennifer Rawls of Poplarville was named first runner up; Audrea McMillen of Tupelo was named second runner up;

Pamela Thomas of Columbus was named third runner up; and Jeanna Aultman of Sumrall was named fourth runner up. Pictured (from left) are Thomas; Rawls; Rachel Wilson Earnest, Miss Carey 1994; Sherrell; McMillen; and Aultman.



Schenkewitz, Caldwell, and Courtney

**William Carey College student Kyle Schenkewitz** of Moss Point, was recently awarded the Carpenter-Gandy Scholarship for excellence in biblical studies. Schenkewitz is a senior religion major and biblical language minor. The scholarship was established by the Board of Ministerial Education to assist church-related vocation students. Pictured (from left) are Schenkewitz; Daniel Caldwell, dean of the Cooper School of Biblical Studies; and Ruthie Gandy Courtney, secretary for the Board of Ministerial Education.

### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**CHURCH AVERAGING 100** in Sunday School seeks full-time minister of music and youth or bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

**PART-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER** at Bayou View Baptist Church, Gulfport. A heart for children is a must. Contact church office at (228) 863-2482 or [www.bayouview.org](http://www.bayouview.org).

**MAIN STREET CHURCH**, Goodman, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational or full-time pastor. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, Main Street Baptist Church, P.O. Box 206, Goodman, MS 39079-0206.

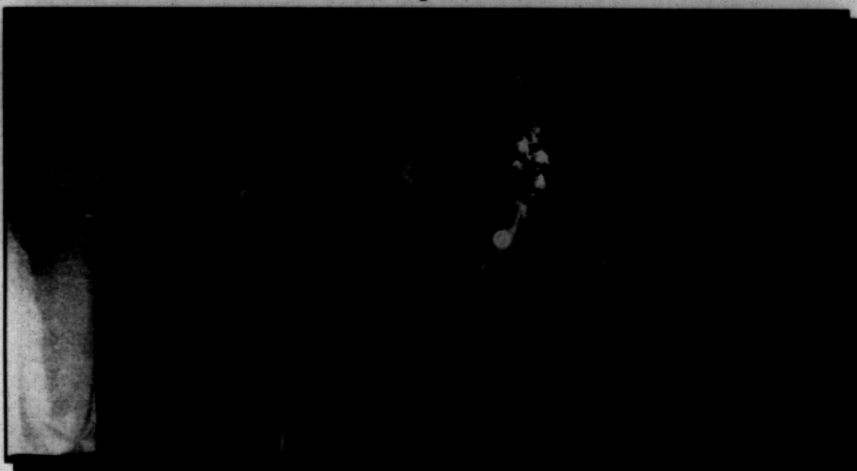
**WEST ELLISVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a full-time Minister of Music and Education. Responsibilities include: leading worship and all adult and youth choirs; overseeing directors and music programs for preschool and children's departments; and overseeing and implementing education programs for the church. Interested applicants please send a resume to West Ellisville Baptist Church, Attention: Melinda Bradshaw, Music Search Committee Chairman, 1108 Avenue B, Ellisville, MS 39437.

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# Youth ministers challenged to reach lost

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Current evangelism methods are not working for today's youth and must be changed to reflect the way today's students think, said youth expert Mark Matlock, creator of PlanetWisdom.com, the Internet ministry of WisdomWorks Ministries of Dallas.

Sharing the emerging trends in student evangelism he has learned from research conducted for his ministry by the Barna Research Group, Matlock told youth ministry scholars at New Orleans Seminary's third annual Youth Ministry Institute (YMI) that teens in this postmodern culture are more resistant to the Gospel and therefore, current evangelism approaches that were effective in the modern culture are not working anymore.

Matlock was one of 16 speakers at this year's YMI "Color Outside the Lines" conference, held during the weeks of January 7 and January 14 with more than 120 youth ministry participants.

Other guest speakers for the two one-week-long events included nationally-recognized youth ministry leaders, such as Chuck Gartman, Go To Youth Ministry, Franklin, Tenn.; Sam Davis, Right Track Ministries, Spartanburg, S.C.; Sue McAllister, Reach Out Ministries, Tupelo, Miss.; Len Taylor, North American Mission Board; Huey Bratton, a licensed professional counselor from Jacksonville, Fla.; Jim Minton, a psychology professor from the



**MATLOCK WITH JACKSON** — Youth expert Mark Matlock (left), creator of PlanetWisdom.com, the Internet ministry of WisdomWorks Ministries of Dallas, Texas, discusses his observations regarding the effect current evangelism methods have on today's teens with New Orleans Seminary's Youth Ministry Institute director, Allen Jackson, who also serves as associate professor of youth education at NOBTS. (BP photo by Shannon Baker)

University of Mobile (Ala.); and other experts from Southern Baptist churches and entities.

Explaining that today's generation is spiritually active — they outpace adults in the areas of spiritual activity, church attendance, Sunday School participation, prayer, small group interaction, and evangelism — Matlock said that the data from over 600 students in the Barna study [balanced for gender, geography, and age-range] shows that "we are just breeding Christians."

The churches with the most children have the most con-

verts, he explained. "The problem is that we are missing huge generations of teenagers."

He pointed out that the probability of a person accepting Christ between the ages of 5-13 is 32%. There is a four percent probability of doing so within the ages of 14-18; and a six percent chance from age 19 to death.

"Ninety-six out of 100 teens will be lost for eternity if we do not figure out how to reach them," he lamented.

According to the Barna study, though four out of five of the students interviewed identified themselves as Christian, when pressed, only 32% could be identified as "born again," Matlock reported. Forty-nine percent were severely questionable regarding salvation, he said.

"There is a need for comprehensive biblical teaching and thinking theologically because the basic teachings are overlooked too often," he said.

He cited examples from the study, which indicated that 61% of the students in the study did not know the John 3:16 passage, 94% did not know the Great Commission passage, and 66% did not know what the Gospels were.

Furthermore, even the "cream of the crop" youth evangelizers (those who said they shared their faith at least once in the past year) are lacking in their basic doctrine. To note, one in ten believe that the Bible is not accurate in all that it teaches; one in five believe that Jesus sinned while on earth; one in four do not acknowledge the real existence of the Holy Spirit; one in three do not acknowledge the existence of the adversary Satan, and one in two believe that truth is relative, Matlock accounted.

"It is not good for students to have zeal without knowledge," he said, pointing to Proverbs 19:2.

"We must reevaluate the way in which we do things and reach out to people,"

Matlock said, stressing the importance of understanding the postmodern generation, which is not as rational as the modern culture, and to whom authenticity, reality, and genuineness matter more.

As an example, Matlock, known for doing magical illusion tricks as an introduction to evangelism, compared the modern magician David Copperfield with the postmodern street magician David Blain.

Copperfield does what is logically impossible, but does not engage the audience in the experience, Matlock said, explaining that his methodology worked for the modern thinker.

On the other hand, Blain, who is much less precise in what he does, engages people, having learned that today's culture would rather be in the experience than see a perfect show.

Noting the emphasis on personal involvement and individuality, Matlock cautioned against putting evangelism in a "box." He noted that the world is marketing uniqueness and individuality, and that Christians stress that every life is uniquely created, yet Christians tend to use the same evangelism methods over and over.

"Instead of using the same tool for sharing Christ with every unique individual, we need to adjust our evangelism as a tool box where different things may be pulled out in each situation," he said.

## Revival dates

**Daniel Memorial, Jackson:** Feb. 10-13; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Les Hughes, evangelist; Karen Hardy, music; Steven Potts, pastor.

**First, Grenada:** Feb. 24-27; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, evangelist; Mark Manning, music.

**Parkview, Greenville:** Feb. 10-17; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Sat., 7 p.m.; William Blackburn, speaker; Hill Family, special music; for further information, contact the church office at (662) 332-7281.

## EVANGELISM RESPONSE CENTER ENCOURAGER TRAINING

The North America Mission Board is looking for people to help them in receiving calls from people in Mississippi and all over America who want to hear the gospel! If you would like to witness to receptive people from the comfort of your own home as they contact you, then this conference is for you! For more information, or to reserve a spot, contact these churches.

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HLPY YKXBNM; PCRP  
QCBOB E RY, PCBOB KB  
YRK GB RN XU.

AUCL MUHOPBBL: PCOBB

Clue: T = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Ten: Fifteen.



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Prejudice to acceptance

James 2:1-13

By J. Michael Barnett

Prejudice is the subject of James 2:1-13. James is a practical book and prejudice is a practical sin. It affects the very core of the church.

The word "respect" or "favoritism" in James 2:1 is the Greek word *prosopolepe-seah*; it literally means, "to take one's face."

In other words, we are forbidden in Scripture to determine our relationship with someone on the basis of their appearance.

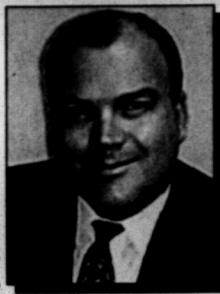
It is a sin to base our ministry to someone on social rank, color of skin, ethnic origin or any other characteristic that is different than our own. This sin is called prejudice.

Prejudice contradicts godliness. The Bible says, "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34).

If God shows no favoritism toward anyone and no prejudice against anyone, then to do so is unlike God. To be unlike God is to be ungodly. Believers and their churches are to reflect the character of God not contradict it.

Second, prejudice usurps the sovereignty of God. James 2:4 explains what happens when prejudice is practiced: "Have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts."

Prejudice usurps God's sov-



Barnett

ereignty in that it sets the perpetrator up as the one who judges. Judgment from a prejudiced heart is only based on appearance, not the heart, and no one can judge the heart.

God alone is sovereign. He has established means by which the church determines one's godliness and ungodliness and it has nothing to do with outward appearances.

A third danger of prejudice is that it completely violates Scripture. The Scriptures teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves (James 2:8). This is impossible with prejudice.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan (see Luke 10:25-37), Jesus teaches us to minister to everyone we can. He used a despised Samaritan as an example. To minister to such is to obey the Word of God.

Also, James lists the second portion of the Ten Commandments (see James

2:9-11). To violate the "Royal Law" (v. 8) is to violate the Ten Commandments because the basic meaning of the Commandments is to "love your neighbor as yourself." In addition, the same God wrote all the law. Therefore, prejudice violates his character and to violate his character is to violate his Word.

James 2:9 expresses the first step in correction prejudice. If you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

The first step is to recognize it as sin. Often statements are made that attempt to justify prejudice such as, "That is just the way things are," or "I was raised this way."

In my ministry I have encountered very few bigots. The vast majority of people in my churches have been godly, Christ-honoring people who hold no prejudice in their hearts.

These godly people were raised in the same environment

as the bigots. Through the power of Christ they have abandoned the sin of prejudice.

The love of God is shed abroad from their hearts rather than the hatred of prejudice. They have ceased making excuses and called prejudice what it is, a sin against God.

The second step is repent. Prejudice must be turned from. A lifestyle change must take place by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Word of God must be received and thus the mind renewed. In verse 9 we are summoned to speak and act in accordance with God's law of liberty.

Also, the believer must receive the mercy of God and extend mercy as well. Not only should the believer follow the "Royal Law," but he must also follow the "Golden Rule." We are to extend mercy to everyone, because it is the character of God and also because we desire to receive the mercy of God.

Barnett is pastor of First Church, Ocean Springs.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Making choices

Deuteronomy 27:1-28:68

By Carleen McGraw

Blessings or curses? You make the choice! This is the message to God's people in these two chapters.

Moses had reviewed and expanded on the meaning of the Ten Commandments given by God for their own good. God would keep his part of the covenant; he had done so throughout their 40 years of wandering; now their survival depended on their keeping their part of the covenant.

The Israelites had entered into covenant with God at Mount Horeb. Now they were standing on the east bank of the Jordan River, ready to cross over.

Moses knew he would not be going into the promised land with the people because he had disobeyed God's com-

mand, but in Deuteronomy 5-26, he had urgently commanded them to listen, learn, and obey the commandments in accordance with their covenant agreement.

In their 40 years together, he had been their go-between with the Lord. He knew their good points, their frailties and failures. He knew the enemies they would be facing. He knew how easily God's people could be led astray, and he is anxious for them to remember the covenant they had entered into and to live by it, so that God could bless them.

Although scribes may have been writing down the words he had spoken, there might be no one around to read them to the people, or they might not take the time to read them and remember.



McGraw

So God gave Moses a solution to the problem. When they crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land, they were to set up some large stones on Mount Ebal, coat them with plaster, and write on them the words of the Law. This would be a public reminder of their commitment to their covenant.

Now imagine the Israelites — every time they passed this monument, there right before their eyes was the reminder of the covenant they had agreed on and entered into. When they crossed the Jordan, they were also to build an altar of field stones and offer burnt offerings and "sacrifice fellowship offerings there, eating them and rejoicing in the presence of the Lord your God" (27:7).

Mount Ebal was located about 35 miles north of Jerusalem, and at its base was the city of Shechem, where the Lord first appeared to Abraham and gave him the promise of a

nation and a land for his people.

Abraham built his first altar to the Lord there (read Gen. 12:1-7). Mount Ebal would serve as a reminder of the covenant God had made with Abraham, as well as Israel's commitment to the Lord.

Then "Moses and the priests said to all Israel, 'Be silent, O Israel, and listen! You have now become the people of the Lord your God. Obey the Lord your God and follow His commands and decrees that I give you today'" (vv. 9, 10).

The fact that they were "the people of the Lord your God" had already been established, since their whole history of the covenant relationship affirmed that they were. Just as Christian parents today remind their children over and over with words like, "You are a Christian now, and thus and so is out of bounds for you," to affirm their special relationship with the Lord, the people in Moses day had to be reminded that they were God's people, and their covenant relationship with him.

When the laws and decrees

had been written on the monument and the sacrifices had been offered on the altar, a special ceremony was to be held at which the curses and blessings would be recited by the Levites. The people would respond with a resounding "Amen" agreeing and affirming the legitimacy of the curses and with the judgment pronounced.

Immediately following the curses, in ch. 28:2-14, Moses recites the blessings for obedience, and from verse 15 to the end of the chapter further curses are listed.

Why do we make wrong choices? We don't have God's Word posted on billboards, but we have the Bible to remind us of our commitment to him when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

We can claim the blessings and accept the same curses Moses gave God's people in his day, by obedience or disobedience to God's Word. We make the choice!

McGraw is a member of First Church, Louisville.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.





# THE VILLAGE VIEW

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27

Clinton, MS 39060-0027

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## Honor Roll of Churches

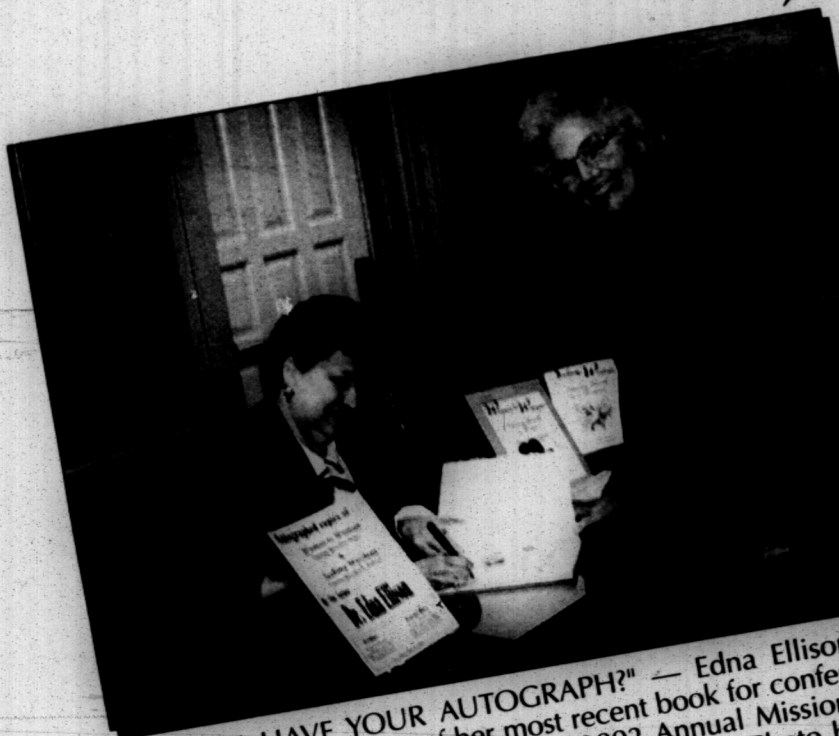
Each January we evaluate the cash gifts received in the financial office of The Baptist Children's Village during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist churches in descending order of their designated cash gifts. This evaluation and analysis is known as the "Honor Roll of Churches." During 2001, 466 local churches gave \$1,000.00 or more to the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village. According to our records, those "top 466 churches" were:

RANK	CHURCH NAME/ CITY	2001 GIFTS						
1	Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$25,701.00	81	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mendenhall	\$4,716.19	161	First Baptist Church, Batesville	\$2,675.00
2	Immanuel Baptist Church, Vicksburg	\$22,567.41	82	Shiloh Baptist Church, Port Gibson	\$4,519.55	162	Rock Hill Baptist Church, Brandon	\$2,661.30
3	First Baptist Church, Kosciusko	\$21,011.55	83	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$4,353.04	163	Central Baptist Church, McComb	\$2,659.84
4	Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton	\$16,693.98	84	Eastwood Baptist Church, Indianola	\$4,338.27	164	Riverside Baptist Church, Monticello	\$2,658.54
5	First Baptist Church, Gulfport	\$14,981.72	85	Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Bruce	\$4,295.00	165	Bethsaida Baptist Church, French Camp	\$2,650.40
6	First Baptist Church, Corinth	\$14,660.70	86	Chunky Baptist Church, Chunky	\$4,285.00	166	First Baptist Church, Belzoni	\$2,624.11
7	First Baptist Church, Water Valley	\$14,567.07	87	First Baptist Church, Olive Branch	\$4,264.98	167	Calvary Baptist Church, Greenwood	\$2,605.00
8	Russell Baptist Church, Meridian	\$14,544.00	88	Oak Forest Baptist Church, Jackson	\$4,237.20	168	First Baptist Church, Biloxi	\$2,594.93
9	First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs	\$12,972.04	89	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Columbus	\$4,216.55	169	Newhebron Baptist Church, Newhebron	\$2,594.37
10	Bunker Hill Baptist Church, Columbia	\$12,459.12	90	Harmony Baptist Church, Walnut	\$4,215.68	170	Ruleville Baptist Church, Ruleville	\$2,555.50
11	Murphy Creek Baptist Church, Louisville	\$12,123.33	91	Liberty Baptist Church, New Albany	\$4,200.00	171	High Hill Baptist Church, Philadelphia	\$2,545.97
12	State Boulevard Baptist Church, Meridian	\$11,556.94	92	First Baptist Church, Coldwater	\$4,200.00	172	Lexie Baptist Church, Tylertown	\$2,526.61
13	First Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$10,997.00	93	Trinity First Baptist Church, Waynesboro	\$4,153.33	173	Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson	\$2,520.00
14	Rolling Creek Baptist Church, Quitman	\$10,237.42	94	East Philadelphia Baptist Church, Philadelphia	\$4,121.85	174	Beulah Baptist Church, Inverness	\$2,473.46
15	First Baptist Church, Union	\$10,039.76	95	Dry Creek Baptist Church, Mendenhall	\$4,119.34	175	Goodwater Baptist Church, Magee	\$2,468.49
16	First Baptist Church, Richton	\$9,781.00	96	Vaiden Baptist Church, Vaiden	\$4,051.00	176	First Baptist Church, Summit	\$2,451.42
17	First Baptist Church, Louisville	\$9,668.00	97	West Kemper Baptist Church, De Kalb	\$4,000.00	177	Star Baptist Church, Star	\$2,429.40
18	First Baptist Church, Jackson	\$9,188.50	98	Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus	\$4,000.00	178	Clarke-Venable Baptist Church, Decatur	\$2,408.29
19	Misc. Church Designations, Jackson	\$9,144.00	99	Topeka Baptist Church, Jayess	\$3,980.26	179	Oakvale Baptist Church, Oak Vale	\$2,403.95
20	Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$9,049.00	100	Big Creek Baptist Church, Big Creek	\$3,956.55	180	Oak Hill Baptist Church, Pontotoc	\$2,400.00
21	Williamsville Baptist Church, Kosciusko	\$9,009.15	101	New Harmony Baptist Church, Blue Springs	\$3,942.19	181	Midway Baptist Church, Jackson	\$2,394.00
22	Indian Springs Baptist Church, Petal	\$8,585.40	102	Hurricane Creek Baptist Church, Sandy Hook	\$3,911.81	182	First Baptist Church, Coffeeville	\$2,375.00
23	Liberty Baptist Church, Liberty	\$8,531.82	103	First Baptist Church, Natchez	\$3,900.00	183	First Baptist Church, Eudora	\$2,373.36
24	Highland Baptist Church, Vicksburg	\$8,420.00	104	First Baptist Church, Columbia	\$3,875.00	184	Pineview Baptist Church, Clinton	\$2,357.80
25	Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Newton	\$8,411.86	105	Central Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$3,860.57	185	Improve Baptist Church, Columbia	\$2,356.77
26	Roseland Park Baptist Church, Picayune	\$7,938.00	106	Derma Baptist Church, Derma	\$3,816.68	186	New Prospect Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$2,350.00
27	Briar Hill Baptist Church, Florence	\$7,800.00	107	Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson	\$3,795.00	187	Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Columbus	\$2,345.00
28	North Winona Baptist Church, Winona	\$7,628.50	108	Old Silver Creek Baptist Church, Silver Creek	\$3,791.67	188	Short Creek Baptist Church, Yazoo City	\$2,325.00
29	Forest Hill Baptist Church, Jackson	\$7,628.04	109	Hurley Baptist Church, Hurley	\$3,773.20	189	First Baptist Church, Mendenhall	\$2,321.00
30	First Baptist Church, Abbeville	\$7,462.46	110	Spring Creek Baptist Church, Philadelphia	\$3,736.82	190	First Baptist Church, Itta Bena	\$2,300.58
31	Calvary Baptist Church, Waynesboro	\$7,460.00	111	Macedonia Baptist Church, Myrtle	\$3,726.16	191	First Bellevue Baptist Church, Shelby	\$2,300.00
32	Union South Baptist Church, Seminary	\$7,450.00	112	Union Baptist Church, Meridian	\$3,613.54	192	Fellowship Baptist Church, Ripley	\$2,297.36
33	Sand Hill Baptist Church, Richton	\$7,346.00	113	Valley Grove Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$3,613.43	193	First Baptist Church, Nettleton	\$2,276.00
34	Leaf River Baptist Church, Collins	\$7,275.00	114	Society Hill Baptist Church, Oak Vale	\$3,605.86	194	First Baptist Church, Magnolia	\$2,263.54
35	Phalti Baptist Church, Prentiss	\$7,104.93	115	Perkinson Baptist Church, Perkinson	\$3,575.00	195	Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson	\$2,261.32
36	Harmony Baptist Church, Crystal Springs	\$6,903.66	116	Bucatanua Baptist Church, Meridian	\$3,554.11	196	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church, Kosciusko	\$2,250.00
37	Calvary Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	\$6,845.57	117	Thrasher Baptist Church, Booneville	\$3,490.79	197	First Baptist Church, Grenada	\$2,250.00
38	Tylertown Baptist Church, Tylertown	\$6,839.10	118	First Baptist Church, Columbus	\$3,465.00	198	First Baptist Church, Okolona	\$2,241.00
39	First Baptist Church, Picayune	\$6,834.00	119	Carriage Hills Baptist Church, Southaven	\$3,422.15	199	Oak Dale Baptist Church, Pontotoc	\$2,228.52
40	Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jackson	\$6,754.21	120	Kolola Springs Baptist Church, Caledonia	\$3,392.47	200	Bethlehem Baptist Church, Walnut	\$2,222.25
41	First Baptist Church, Canton	\$6,590.00	121	Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	\$3,329.46	201	Glenfield Baptist Church, New Albany	\$2,219.51
42	First Baptist Church, Booneville	\$6,557.28	122	First Baptist Church, Laurel	\$3,321.25	202	Blythe Creek Baptist Church, Mathiston	\$2,196.75
43	Raymond Baptist Church, Raymond	\$6,400.00	123	First Baptist Church, Aberdeen	\$3,300.00	203	Sebastopol Baptist Church, Sebastopol	\$2,182.87
44	First Baptist Church, Greenville	\$6,286.67	124	First Baptist Church, Newton	\$3,298.97	204	First Baptist Church, Terry	\$2,182.83
45	Meadville Baptist Church, Meadville	\$6,215.63	125	Chesterville Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$3,290.00	205	Shuqualak Baptist Church, Shuqualak	\$2,151.00
46	Wildwood Baptist Church, Clinton	\$6,102.65	126	Immanuel Baptist Church, Greenwood	\$3,250.00	206	South Crossroads Baptist Church, Tishomingo	\$2,130.00
47	Bovina Baptist Church, Vicksburg	\$6,085.00	127	First Baptist Church, McComb	\$3,245.31	207	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	\$2,125.00
48	First Baptist Church, Starkville	\$6,084.79	128	Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton	\$3,228.39	208	D'Lo Baptist Church, D Lo	\$2,122.48
49	Midway Baptist Church, Meridian	\$6,035.00	129	Perry Baptist Association, New Augusta	\$3,209.00	209	Navilla Baptist Church, McComb	\$2,104.95
50	Gaston Baptist Church, Booneville	\$6,012.16	130	Anchor Baptist Church, Water Valley	\$3,192.73	210	Ingram Baptist Church, Baldwin	\$2,097.79
51	Northwest Baptist Association, Hernando	\$6,000.00	131	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	\$3,105.00	211	Cairo Baptist Church, Ecu	\$2,071.46
52	Cornerstone Baptist Church, Grenada	\$5,947.20	132	New Sight Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$3,089.38	212	Arm Baptist Church, Silver Creek	\$2,071.16
53	Ackerman Baptist Church, Ackerman	\$5,813.07	133	First Baptist Church, Eupora	\$3,051.96	213	Eastside Baptist Church, Pearl	\$2,055.00
54	Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson	\$5,804.00	134	First Baptist Church, Ripley	\$3,030.96	214	First Baptist Church, Buckatunna	\$2,045.10
55	Rienzi Baptist Church, Rienzi	\$5,690.41	135	Christ Baptist Church, Greenwood	\$3,013.00	215	Prentiss Baptist Church, Prentiss	\$2,027.60
56	First Baptist Church, Madison	\$5,650.10	136	First Baptist Church, Indianola	\$3,013.00	216	Shiloh Baptist Church, Big Creek	\$2,026.96
57	Parkway Baptist Church, Clinton	\$5,516.60	137	Unity Baptist Church, Harrisville	\$2,973.75	217	Ludlow Baptist Church, Ludlow	\$2,007.56
58	Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Mendenhall	\$5,468.00	138	First Baptist Church, Isola	\$2,941.66	218	Tuscumbia Baptist Church, Booneville	\$2,007.00
59	First Baptist Church, Quitman	\$5,452.63	139	First Baptist Church, Pascagoula	\$2,940.31	219	First Baptist Church, Verona	\$2,005.00
60	First Baptist Church, Sardis	\$5,361.47	140	Clear Springs Baptist Church, Louin	\$2,916.67	220	Steep Hollow Baptist Church, Poplarville	\$2,003.77
61	Walthall Baptist Church, Walthall	\$5,353.24	141	Deer Creek Baptist Church, Rolling Fork	\$2,913.56	221	Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church, Philadelphia	\$2,000.00
62	Seminary Baptist Church, Seminary	\$5,343.85	142	Foxworth Baptist Church, Foxworth	\$2,901.65	222	Arbor Grove Baptist Church, Houston	\$1,995.00
63	Memorial Baptist Church, Richton	\$5,338.51	143	Indian Springs Baptist Church, Laurel	\$2,898.60	223	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,987.98
64	Parkway Baptist Church, Kosciusko	\$5,331.28	144	Moak's Creek Baptist Church, Summit	\$2,893.85	224	Friendship Baptist Church, McComb	\$1,983.10
65	Mount Zion Baptist Church-Tate, Independence	\$5,309.92	145	First Baptist Church, Magee	\$2,890.00	225	Fredonia Baptist Church, New Albany	\$1,979.00
66	Trinity Baptist Church, Southaven	\$5,254.22	146	First Baptist Church, Amory	\$2,867.98	226	Taylor Baptist Church, Taylor	\$1,960.00
67	Forest Baptist Church, Forest	\$5,245.00	147	Stanton Baptist Church, Natchez	\$2,823.84	227	Westwood Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,956.00
68	North Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood	\$5,239.60	148	Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson	\$2,821.74	228	Branch Baptist Church, Morton	\$1,949.18
69	First Baptist Church, Brandon	\$5,183.50	149	Ephesus Baptist Church, Forest	\$2,808.14	229	Union Baptist Church, Sardis	\$1,948.83
70	Mantee Baptist Church, Mantee	\$5,182.05	150	Main Street Baptist Church, Goodman	\$2,797.41	230	DeSoto Baptist Church, Shubuta	\$1,943.17
71	North Batesville Baptist Church, Batesville	\$5,117.39	151	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Columbus	\$2,791.00	231	Williamsburg Baptist Church, Collins	\$1,943.16
72	Springfield Baptist Church, Morton	\$5,090.00	152	Grays Creek Baptist Church, Hernando	\$2,766.82	232	Whitesand Baptist Church, Prentiss	\$1,935.00
73	Fellowship Baptist Church, Meridian	\$5,076.70	153	North Columbia Baptist Church, Columbia	\$2,756.43	233	Pineville Baptist Church, Golden	\$1,921.00
74	First Baptist Church, Hazlehurst	\$5,060.00	154	Bethany Baptist Church, Calhoun City	\$2,748.00	234	Success Baptist Church, Saucier	\$1,918.09
75	First Baptist Church, New Albany	\$5,008.64	155	First Baptist Church, Holly Springs	\$2,743.00	235	Pine Grove Baptist Church, Picayune	\$1,903.70
76	Sylvarena Baptist Church, Raleigh	\$4,985.63	156	First Baptist Church, Vicksburg	\$2,712.02	236	Providence Baptist Church, Vicksburg	\$1,900.00
77	First Baptist Church, Clinton	\$4,808.91	157	Pine Forest Baptist Church, Collinsville	\$2,708.33	237	DeKalb Baptist Church, De Kalb	\$1,899.00
78	Topisaw Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	\$4,801.28	158	Holcomb Baptist Church, Holcomb	\$2,707.97	238	New Hope Baptist Church, Gulfport	\$1,892.46
79	Ingomar Baptist Church, New Albany	\$4,745.02	159	Parkway Baptist Church, Houston	\$2,686.93	239	New Haven Baptist Church, Weir	\$1,870.74
80	Providence Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$4,726.25	160	Macedonia Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$2,676.05	240	Valley Park Baptist Church, Valley Park	\$1,865.08



# 2002 ANNUAL MISSIONS CELEBRATION

FIRST CHURCH, NATCHEZ • FEBRUARY 1-2, 2002



**BIBLE REFLECTIONS** — Author Edna Ellison (below), retired from the national office of the Southern Baptist Convention Woman's Missionary Union, offered the Bible study at each session of the 2002 Annual Missions Celebration at First Church, Natchez, Feb. 1-2. (Photo by Tony Martin)

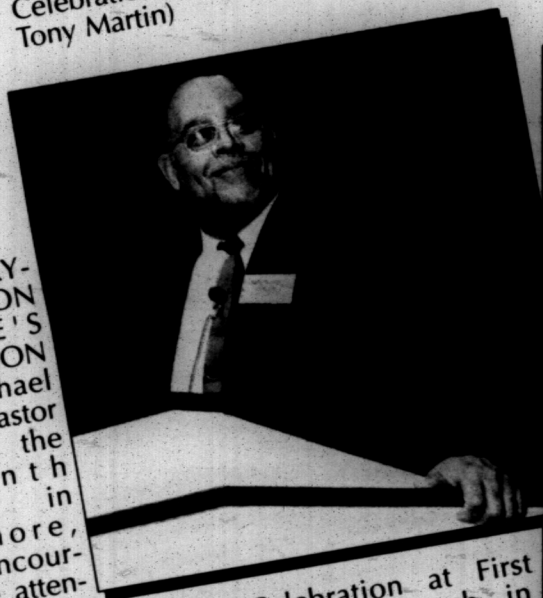


**CATCHING UP** — Kay Cassibry (left) executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, and Michael Coles (right) pastor of the Seventh Church in Baltimore, Md., share a lighter moment during the Annual Missions Celebration Banquet Feb. 1 at First Church, Natchez. (Photo by Tony Martin)

**"MAY I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?"** — Edna Ellison (left) autographs a copy of her most recent book for conferee Jane Blair during a break at the 2002 Annual Missions Celebration at First Church, Natchez, Feb. 1-2. (Photo by Tony Martin)



**CARRY-ING ON ANNIE'S TRADITION** — Michael Coles, pastor of the Seventh Church in Baltimore, Md., encourages the attendees at the 2002 Annual Missions Celebration at First Church, Natchez. The Seventh Church in Baltimore is the home church of Annie Armstrong. (Photo by Tony Martin)



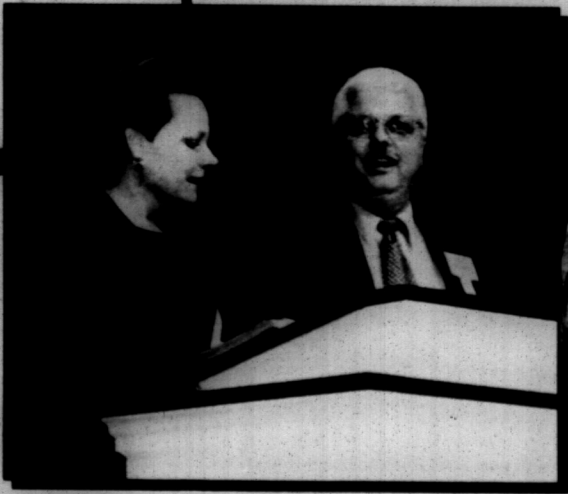
**VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR** — Clay Blair (left) and Jane Blair (right) of Liberty Church, Carrollton, receive an award citing their outstanding volunteerism from Kay Cassibry, executive director of Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, during the Annual Missions Celebration Banquet Feb. 1. (Photo by Tony Martin)



**GOOD NEWS FROM WEST AFRICA** — Cathy Curtis, missionary to West Africa, updates the conferees at the 2002 Annual Missions Celebration February 1-2 at First Church, Natchez. The celebration is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. (Photo by Tony Martin)



**"WE'VE A STORY TO TELL"** — The choir of First Church, Natchez, leads in worship during the Annual Missions Celebration of the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union February 1-2, 2002. (Photo by Tony Martin)



**REPORT-ING FROM BRAZIL** — Bonnie and Tom Hearon, Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil, report on their ministry in South America during the Annual Missions Celebration Feb. 1-2 at First Church, Natchez. (Photo by Tony Martin)



**A NEW WAY TO PRAY FOR THE WORLD** — Tammy Anderson, consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, shares the ministry of WorldCrafts during the 2002 Annual Missions Celebration at First Church, Natchez. (Photo by Tony Martin)